REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed July 14, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 2 – 7, 14 and 16 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 2 and 5, and have canceled claims 1 and 8 – 20 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 8 – 20 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Entry of Response Respectfully Requested

In this response, Applicants have canceled several claims, and have amended claims to be in independent form. Based on these amendments, no new search should be necessitated because no new combinations of elements are presented. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that this after final response with amendment be entered and that the presently pending claims be placed in condition for allowance for at least the reasons indicated below.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 5, 7 – 14 and 16 - 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Phan* in view of *Yoon*. Additionally, the Office Action indicates that claims 6 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of *Phan* in view of *Yoon*, and further in view of *Dan*. As set forth above, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 8 – 20, and respectfully assert that the

rejections as to these claims have been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Turning first to *Phan*, <u>Applicants respectfully agree with the Examiner's contention that *Phan* does not specifically teach associating a first number with a first actuator without accessing a menu</u>. Additionally, *Phan* clearly describes the manner in which speed dial functionality is to be provided. In this regard, *Phan* discloses:

> In step 610, the user enters a phone number using the fixed number keys of the user input 230. The entered numbers appear in field 535. The user enters the phone number just as if he intended to send a facsimile. In this regard, the user preferably may enter plural phone numbers, for example, by first pressing a multi key 530 to indicate that a list of phone numbers is to be entered. Furthermore, the user preferably may also select entries and groups from available address books as discussed above. After the user enters each phone number, he presses an enter next key 545 to add the new phone number to the list and ready the display for the user's next entry.

> *In step 615, the user presses a program soft key 540 on the screen 500, which activates a program mode in the MFP 110a. Next, the user selects a soft one-touch key 515 (step 620). The MFP 110a then display s a label entry screen (step 625) and allows the user to designate a label for the selected soft one-touch key 515 (step 630). The MFP 110a preferably displays a soft alphanumeric keypad from which the user may enter the label, and a soft key for the user to press when the user has finished entering the label. The label and the entered phone number(s) are then stored, along with their association to the selected soft one-touch key (step 640).*

> *It can be seen that the process of assigning labels and phone numbers to a soft one-touch key is a database management process, with the labels and phone numbers comprising records in the database.* Although the database could be stored in the MFP 110a, it is preferably stored in the Host 110b as part of the facsimile UI definition. (Phan at col. 11, line 53 – col. 12, line 14). (Emphasis Added).

This is in direct contrast to the language recited in Applicants' pending claims as will be described later.

Turning next to *Yoon*, that reference involves a method for registering phone numbers in a telephone. Specifically, *Yoon* discloses:

> Referring to FIG. 2, **when a user places a telephone in an off-the-hook condition and dials a phone number, a controller of the telephone stores the input phone number in a dial buffer** (step 211) and sends the phone number to an exchange to form a speech path to a called subscriber. When the speech path is formed, the user (i.e., calling subscriber) can talk over the telephone with the called subscriber and upon completion of the telephone conversation, one of the calling and called subscribers will place his phone in an on-the-hook condition in order to terminate the call (step 1213).
>
> **Then, the controller of the telephone searches the speed dial list to determine whether or not the dialed phone number stored in the dial buffer is already registered in the speed dial list** (step 215). If the dialed phone number is already registered in the speed dial list, then the controller of the telephone displays sped dial position (or address) and its associated name on a display of the telephone, and stores this information in the redial list (step 217). (Emphasis Added) (*Yoon*, col. 2, line 55 to col. 3, line 6).

Therefore, *Yoon* also clearly teaches a particular manner in which speed dialing is to be accomplished. As set forth below, this manner is quite different than the features/limitations recited in the pending claims.

Turning now to the claims, claim 2 recites:

> 2.   A system for establishing a communication link with a first computing device, the first computing device having a phone number associated therewith, said system comprising:
> a second computing device having a speed-dial system, a first actuator and a menu, said computing device being configured to transmit image data, said menu being configured to enable programming of said second computing device, said speed-dial system being configured to:
> **receive a first user input corresponding to actuation of said first actuator;**
> **in response to the actuation of said first actuator, determine whether a phone number is associated with said first actuator; and**
> **if a phone number is not associated with said first actuator, enable the user to associate a first phone number with said first actuator without accessing said menu such that, after the user associates a phone number with the first actuator, said second computing device speed-dials the phone number in response to actuation of said first actuator to establish a communication link with the first computing device;**
> **wherein said computing device includes number keys; and**

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> *wherein, upon actuation of said first actuator, said speed-dial system enables the user to associate the phone number with said first actuator by only using said number keys.*
> (Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited references, either individually or in combination, are legally deficient for the purpose of rendering obvious claim 2. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that *Phan* do not teach or reasonably suggest at least "enable the user to associate a first phone number with said first actuator without accessing said menu," (because *Phan* uses such a menu) and "wherein, upon actuation of said first actuator, said speed dial system enables the user to associate the phone number with said first actuator by only using said number keys" (because *Phan* requires the use of such a menu).

Additionally, *Yoon* does not teach or reasonably suggest at least "receive a first user input corresponding to actuation of said first actuator" (because *Yoon* does not teach or otherwise disclose such a first actuator), "in response to the actuation of said first actuator, and determine whether a phone number is associated with said first actuator" (because *Yoon* makes such a determination after an entire phone number has been dialed as set forth above) and "wherein, upon actuation of said first actuator, said speed dial system enables the user to associate the phone number with said first actuator by only using said number keys" (because *Yoon* only enables such an association after an entire phone number has been dialed).

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is improper and that claim 2 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 3 - 4 incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 2, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 recites:

> 5.   A system for establishing a communication link with a first computing device, the first computing device having a phone number associated therewith, said system comprising:
>   a second computing device having a speed-dial system, a first actuator and a menu, said computing device being configured to transmit image data, said menu being configured to enable programming of said

second computing device, said speed-dial system being configured to:

receive a first user input corresponding to actuation of said first actuator;

in response to the actuation of said first actuator, determine whether a phone number is associated with said first actuator; and

if a phone number is not associated with said first actuator, enable the user to associate a first phone number with said first actuator without accessing said menu such that, after the user associates a phone number with the first actuator, said second computing device speed-dials the phone number in response to actuation of said first actuator to establish a communication link with the first computing device;

wherein said computing device includes number keys and a second actuator; and

wherein, upon actuation of said first actuator and then said second actuator, said speed-dial system enables the user to associate the phone number with said first actuator by only using said number keys.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited references, either individually or in combination, are legally deficient for the purpose of rendering obvious claim 5. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that *Phan* does not teach or reasonably suggest at least "enable the user to associate a first phone number with said first actuator without accessing said menu" and "wherein, upon actuation of said first actuator and then said second actuator, said speed-dial system enables the user to associate the phone number with said first actuator by only using said number keys."

Additionally, *Yoon* does not teach or reasonably suggest at least "in response to the actuation of said first actuator, determine whether a phone number is associated with said first actuator" and "wherein, upon actuation of said first actuator and then said second actuator, said speed-dial system enables the user to associate the phone number with said first actuator by only using said number keys."

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is improper and that claim 5 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 6 - 7 incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 5, and since *Dan* does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations

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that are lacking in the primary references, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.
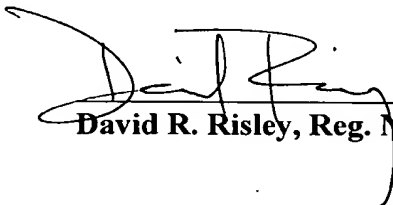
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above,

Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed,

rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for

allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all

pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a

telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to

call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

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_Stephanie Riley_____
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